

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. An apparatus, comprising:
5 a medical implant including a porous outer portion; and
a dried, lubricious when wet, in vivo absorbable coating covering the
porous outer portion.
2. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the coating includes a hydrogel.
- 10 3. The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the coating consists essentially of a
hydrogel.
4. The apparatus of claim 3, wherein the coating is about 1 millimeter
15 thick.
5. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the coating is about 1 millimeter
thick.

6. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the coating fills the porous outer
portion.

7. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the coating includes a bioactive agent.

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8. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the porous outer portion includes a
plurality of sintered metallic particles.

9. A method for finishing a medical implant, the method comprising the
10 steps of:

forming a porous outer portion on the implant;

covering the porous outer portion with a lubricious when wet, in vivo

absorbable coating; and

drying the coating.

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10. The method of claim 9, wherein the drying step includes heating the
coating.

11. The method of claim 9, wherein the covering step includes applying the
20 coating to a thickness of about 1 millimeter.

12. The method of claim 9, further including the step of impregnating the
coating with a bioactive agent.

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